

25X1

Approved For Release 2004/08/17 : CIA-RDP79T00865A002400130001-2

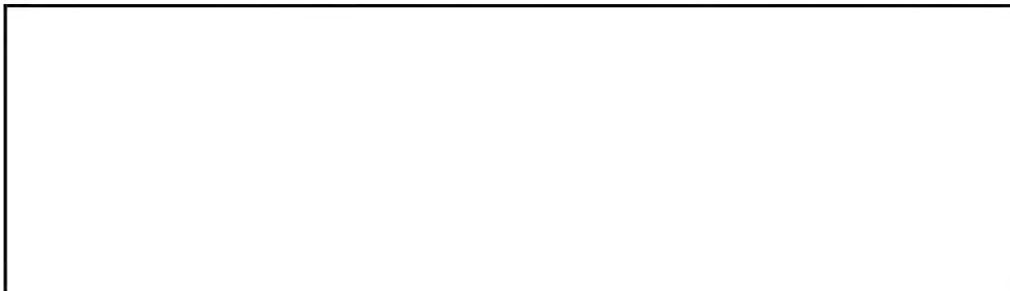
Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2004/08/17 : CIA-RDP79T00865A002400130001-2

~~SECRET~~

Approved For Release 2004/08/17 : CIA-RDP79T00865A002400130001-2

25X1.



C O N T E N T S



25X1

Portuguese Complete Purge of Leftists
from Top Military Positions 4

December 23, 1975

25X6

Approved For Release 2004/08/17 : CIA-RDP79T00865A002400130001-2

Next 2 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2004/08/17 : CIA-RDP79T00865A002400130001-2

25X1

Portuguese Complete Purge of Leftists from Top
Military Positions

New appointments to Portugal's all-military Revolutionary Council appear to complete the purge of leftists from the highest levels of the armed forces, while at the same time serving notice that the military does not intend to abandon altogether its political role.

The vacancies on the Council resulting from the dismissal of two leftist navy officers following the November 25 military uprising have been filled by two navy officers who also serve as cabinet ministers. Commanders Almeida e Costa and Vitor Crespo were confirmed during an all-night meeting of the Revolutionary Council that ended today after approving the economic austerity measures adopted by the cabinet earlier.

Both officers are staunch anti-Communists, but their appointments are otherwise seen as maintaining the balance on the Council between the so-called political officers led by Foreign Minister Melo Antunes and the "professionals" who seem to be gravitating toward newly appointed Army chief of staff Eanes.

Differences between these two factions are not clearly cut, but the "professionals" generally emphasize the need for strict discipline in the armed forces and dedication to their military function. The Antunes group on the other hand, seems intent on carving out a continuing political role for themselves.

These differences have already resulted in some heated discussions in the Council and will probably continue to do so as the officers seek to

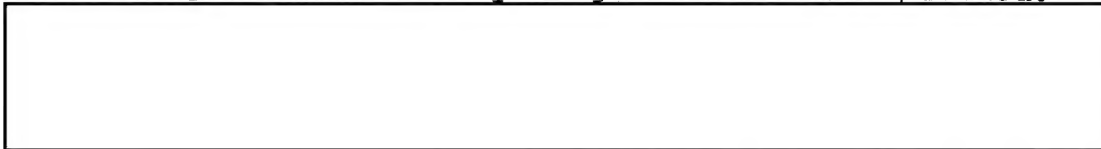
December 23, 1975

SECRET

work out a new pact with the political parties on the military's role in government and politics. There is increasing talk among the more professionally oriented officers that members of the Antunes group should be made to choose between a political or a military career, although the consensus seems to be that the decisive confrontation need not come before the parliamentary elections expected sometime next year.

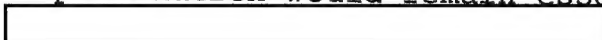
Differences between the two groups appear to be largely a matter of degree, however, as even the "professional" officers are unwilling to give the civilian politicians a free hand. The point of divergence comes on whether the military is to be the "motor" or the "guarantor" of the Portuguese revolution; that is, whether the military should lead the nation to "democracy and socialism"--as Antunes maintains--or should merely provide order and stability and let the people decide whether they want socialism.

The recent squabbling among politicians will help to confirm the officers in their belief that the military must continue in at least a limited role in government if anything is to be accomplished.



Quarrels among the political parties over representation in the cabinet have also risen again. Popular Democratic leader Sa Carneiro told a party rally on Monday that the proposed reorganization of the Azevedo government, which would give the Socialists four ministers, the Popular Democrats three, and the Communists two, was unacceptable because it would double Communist representation.

The Socialists as well as Foreign Minister Antunes have argued the need for Communist participation in the government to share the blame for the economic austerity measures that must come, although most reports have indicated that the breakdown of party representation would remain essentially unchanged.



December 23, 1975

SECRET

Approved For Release 2004/08/17 : CIA-RDP79T00865A002400130001-2

Secret

Secret

Approved For Release 2004/08/17 : CIA-RDP79T00865A002400130001-2